opening of branches, States have an important role to play as they are associated at the time of identification and selection of centres which are sent to Reserve Bank of India by the State Governments. The State Governments have also been increasingly involved in the financing of the development activities by the commercial banks, especially in the programmes for alleviation of poverty.

Working of Nationalised Banks in West Bengal

788. SHRI SHANTIMOY GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the nationalised banks operating in West Bengal are ignoring NABARD's advice to take up a case to case review of all defaulting borrowers and initiate action to reschedule repayments in deserving cases;

(b) if so, how Government are allowing such unresponsiveness in the banking sector; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to clear the mess?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) NABARD had advised all scheduled commercial banks to conduct a case by case analysis of the defaulter borrowers for the twin purpose of providing relief to the deserving borrowers and improve the recovery position.

Reports received by NABARD in this connection indicate that most of the banks are yet to take up the case by case analysis in a big way. NABARD has further reported that it is pursuing this matter with all the banks to ensure that this exercise is completed early in all States.

Undertaking of Civil Construction work in Soviet Union by Indian Companies

789. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that same Indian companies are likely to undertake civil construction work in the Soviet Union; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) It is learnt that few Indian companies, mainly in the private sector, was negotiating with Soviet organisation for civil construction work in USSR. Negotiations are in progress. Details regarding the result would be known as and when any firm contract or agreement has been finalised between the two sides.

Public Sector Banks Economists Meet

790. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ninth-Public Sector banks economists meet was held in Delhi on 31st May, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details of the discussion held; and

(c) what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Ninth Public Sector Banks Economists' meet was held in Delhi on 30th May to 1st June, 1986. The following topics were discussed in the Five sessions of the meeting:—

(i) Implementation of the Report of the Committee on Monetary system for Banks;

(ii) Restructuring of Banks in India;

(iii) Profitability and Profit Planning in Banks;

(iv) Problems of Recovery and Mounting overdues in banks; and

(v) Long Range Planning in Banks.

A number of suggestions emerged as a result of these discussions relating to the above topics such as on: fixation of interest rates on bank deposits, valuation of securities, etc.—the issue of restructuring on which the consonsus was that in the present context this should mean modifying the internal structure of existing banks with a view to improving efficiency on the need for better cash and Investment management, careful planning of non-performing assets, economies in expenditure, diversification of bank business etc. in relation to profit planning—the need for strengthening of field level recovery machinery of banks, joint responsibility of Government and need for simplification of procedures and effective legislative measures for loan recoveries and on the need for long range planning to be itroduced by all banks.

Loss of man-days due to major industrial Strikes

791. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the man-days lost since January, 1986 to June, 1986 due to major industrial strikes in the country; and

(b) the number of major strikes that took place during this period and the man-days lost thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) while information regarding individual strikes is not available, the industries that were most affected by strikes during January-April, 1986 were Cotton textiles, Basic metal & Alloy industries and Machinery, Machine tools & parts. Based on the latest information received in the Labour Bureau, a statement on the number of strikes and mandays lost during January-April, 1986 in these industries is attached.

Statement

Industry group	No. of strikes	No. of mandays lost
Cotton Textiles	42	235,497
Basic Metals & Alloys Industries	21	96,512
Machinery, Machine Tools & Parts	21	72,651
All Industries	276	1,438,000

FALTA Free Trade Zone

792. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what progress has so far been made towards the setting up of FALTA Free Trade Zone in West Bengal in physical and financial terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): The work on the FALTA Export Processing Zone is proceeding apace. 105 acres of land have been developed out of 185 acres already taken over. The boundary wall has been completed and the developed area notified by Customs. About 20 approvals have been accorded for the establishment of industrial units. Exports have already been reported from the Zone. The expenditure incurred on the development of the Zone and its infrastructure by the Central Government upto 31st March, 1986 is Rs. 5.93 crores.

Imports, exports and trade deficit

793. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMER-